

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 10-18-06 From the Office of the Director of Health

Classes, Screenings and Vaccinations Offered to Community Child Care Providers

On Saturday, October 21, the Springfield-Greene County Health Department and its partners will offer vaccinations, medical screenings and education classes to child care providers from across southwest Missouri at the 4th Annual Southwest Missouri Child Care Provider Health Conference.

"Many child care providers do not have health benefits, "says event coordinator Tammy Vestal. "At this conference they can receive important medical screenings and vaccinations, all at one place, and virtually without cost."

The conference promotes health and safety awareness in child care facilities. It will offer continuing education hours for classes on safe sleeping habits for infants, stress in childhood, staying healthy and the dangers of methamphetamine. Vendors will also be available to answer questions.

"Each day child care providers care for up to approximately 24,000 children in southwest Missouri," adds Vestal. "This conference is our way of saying thank you for the excellent care they provide."

The conference will be held October 21 from 8:00 a.m. to noon at Ozarks Technical Community College, located at 933 E. Central in Springfield. The cost is \$5.00 with pre-registration, or \$10.00 at the door. To pre-register, call Rebecca Schoen at (417) 887-3545.

For more information, contact Tammy Vestal, BSN, RN at (417) 864-1430.

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